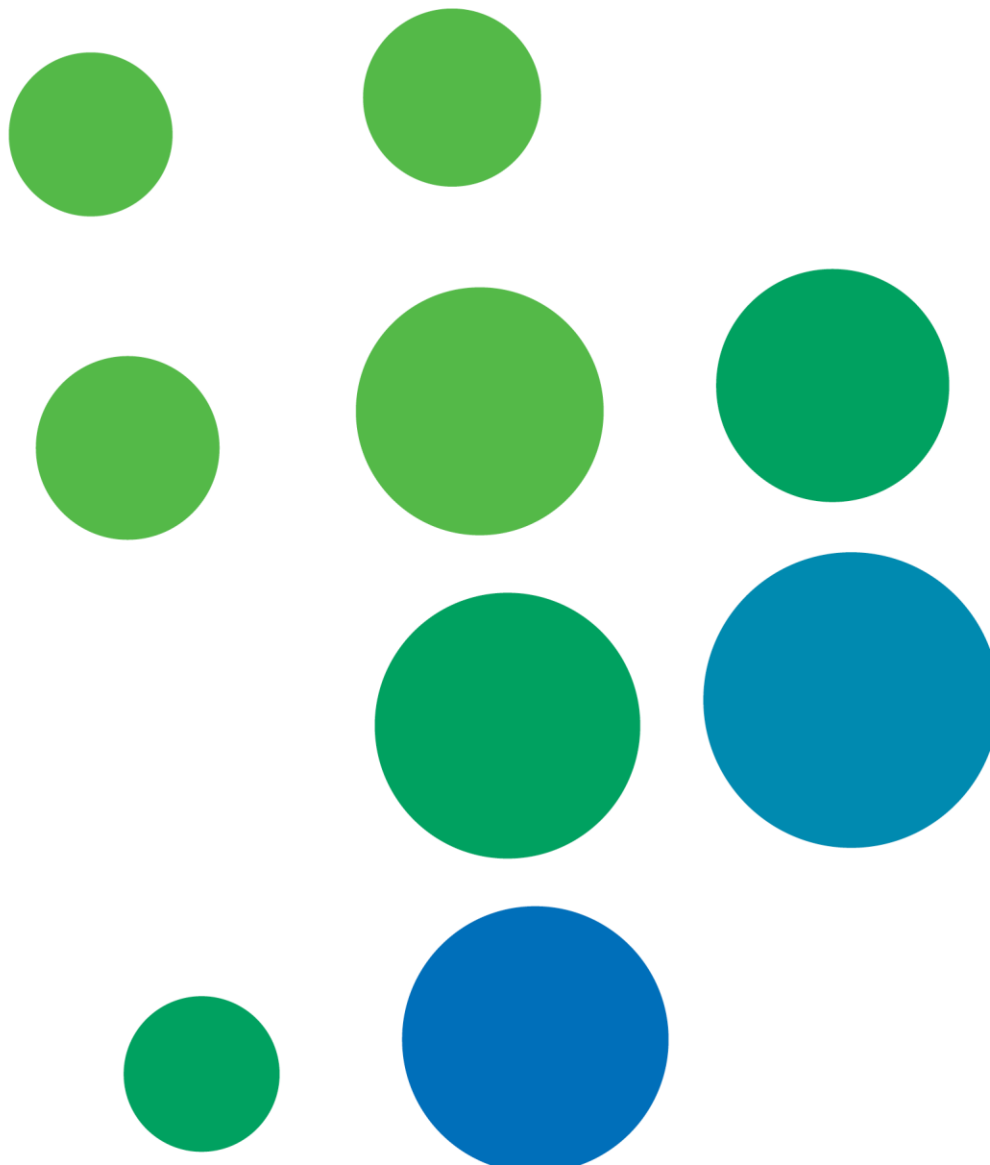


CPABC Financial Literacy Program

New Volunteer Walkthrough: Presenting Your First Session

Spring/Summer 2026



Contents

1. Welcome to the CPA Financial Literacy Program!	2
2. How do we match you with volunteer opportunities?	2
3. Volunteer and host responsibilities	5
4. Seeking out your own volunteer opportunities	7
5. How CPABC can help	7
6. Downloading session materials	7
7. Tips for presenting financial literacy sessions	8
8. Self-reporting sessions	10
9. Frequently asked questions	11

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1. Welcome to the CPA Financial Literacy Program!



The [CPA Financial Literacy Program](#) delivers free, unbiased, objective financial education to communities across Canada. Our award-winning program aims to give participants the knowledge and confidence needed to make smart financial choices and accomplish their life goals.

By registering as a CPABC Financial Literacy volunteer, you're helping us meet the growing demand for financial education in British Columbia and the Yukon.

Thank you for joining us! In this guide you'll find information to start your volunteer journey.

2. How do we match you with volunteer opportunities?

CPABC's Financial Literacy system connects volunteers like you to financial literacy host organizations in communities across BC and the Yukon. We do this by matching volunteers and hosts based on specific preferences of both parties including:

- Preferred audience type (schools, youth, seniors, adults, etc.)
- Preferred session format (in-person, online, or hybrid. Online sessions can be presented by any volunteer regardless of location preferences.)
- Preferred volunteering region(s)/location(s)
- Preferred language(s)

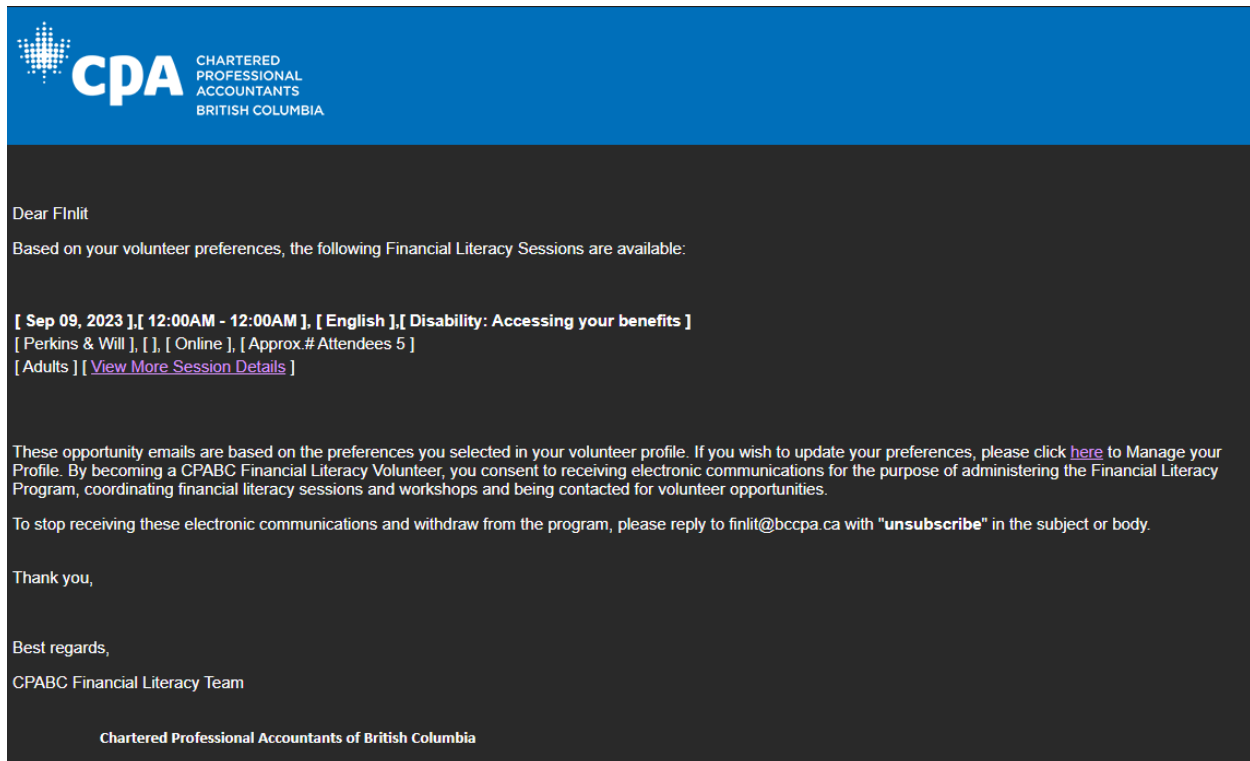
If at any time you would like to change or update your volunteer preferences, you can!

- [Log in](#) to the Volunteer Portal
- Under Financial Literacy, click the "Manage Volunteer Profile" (under "Volunteer Portal")
- Select your new preferences
- After making your changes, click "Finish" to save them

Volunteer opportunity emails

Volunteer opportunities that match your preferences are emailed to you on the 7th and the 21st of each month. If you'd like to present a session, simply click "View More

Session Details” under your desired session (this will take you to the volunteer portal), and then click “Register Myself”.



An example of a Volunteer Opportunity email

Not receiving volunteer opportunity emails?

If you are not receiving any volunteer opportunity emails, this is because no session requests have been made that match your preferences. Consider expanding your preferences by selecting additional audience types or locations under “Manage Volunteer Profile” in the volunteer portal. If you prefer to only deliver in-person sessions, consider presenting online sessions as well, and vice-versa.

View all available volunteer opportunities

Select “Available Volunteer Opportunities” in the portal to view a list of all current volunteer opportunities. This list is all-encompassing and is not tailored to your own volunteer preferences. To register to present a session click “Register” and then “Register Myself”.

The CPABC Financial Literacy team may occasionally contact you outside of the scheduled emails to inform you of volunteer opportunities.

Connecting with a host organization

After registering to present a financial literacy session, you'll be connected and introduced to the host organization contact via email. Both parties' contact information will be shared as well as logistics for the session such as day and time, location, format, approximate number of attendees, and language.

Cancelling or rescheduling a session

If you need to cancel or reschedule a session, please email finlit@bccpa.ca. We will inform the host and work to find a replacement volunteer or determine an alternate date for the session.

3. Volunteer and host responsibilities

Volunteers and hosts have different responsibilities before, during, and after a session. The tables below outline the steps both parties are expected to follow to prepare for, present, and self-report a session.

In-person sessions

Host responsibilities		Volunteer responsibilities	
Before the session			
Inform the volunteer and CPABC of scheduling changes or cancellations related to the session		Inform the host and CPABC of any scheduling changes or cancellations related to the session	
Inform the volunteer of any special instructions (parking, building entrance, room number, etc.)		Learn more about the session participants and make any adjustments to the presentation	
Secure a space for the session and ensure it can accommodate the number of participants		Download session materials and ensure they are ready to be presented	
Promote the session and manage attendance (RSVP or drop-in)			
Download participant materials			
		Make any desired adjustments to the presentation content and/or speaking notes	
Day of the session			
Provide any required equipment for the presentation (projector, monitor, computer, etc.)		Arrive on time with sufficient time for set up	
Distribute participant materials (or distribute in advance)		Present the session in the provided space and in a professional manner	
After the session			
Complete our evaluation survey if desired		If the session was organized outside the volunteer portal, self-report the session	

Virtual sessions

Host responsibilities	Volunteer responsibilities
Before the session	
Inform the volunteer and CPABC of any scheduling changes or cancellations	Inform the host and CPABC of scheduling changes or cancellations related to the session
Set up the online meeting using your preferred platform	Learn more about the session participants and make any adjustments to the presentation
Send the volunteer and participants the link to join the session	Download session materials and ensure they are ready to be presented
Promote the session and manage attendance (RSVP or drop-in)	
Download participant materials	
	Make any desired adjustments to the presentation content and/or speaking notes
Day of the session	
Distribute participant materials (or distribute in advance)	Join the session with enough time to prepare and ensure any technical issues are sorted
Launch session with enough time to prepare and address any technical issues. Consider making the volunteer a meeting co-host and testing speakers and screen sharing	Present the session in a professional manner
After the session	
Complete our evaluation survey if desired	If the session was organized outside the volunteer portal, self-report the session

4. Seeking out your own volunteer opportunities



Maybe you know of an organization that is promoting financial literacy to their staff, or perhaps your child's school is looking to present a session to students. Whatever the case, feel free to get in touch with an organization and set up a session on your own!

Important: If you choose to organize sessions on your own, we ask that you **self-report** them. Please see page 10 to learn more about self-reporting.

5. How CPABC can help

CPABC's role is to support financial literacy volunteers and host organizations so that they can enjoy a positive and fulfilling experience. Our team is available to help you with questions, concerns, or ideas.

Additionally, we have plenty of [financial literacy resources](#) to help you get the most out of your volunteer experience and discover new opportunities to learn. You can also attend any of [CPABC's upcoming sessions, networking events, and online webinars](#).

6. Downloading session materials

Before presenting a session, you'll need to download the session materials. These typically include a PowerPoint presentation (with speaking notes), facilitators guide, evaluation forms, and more. As reference, they will also include participant materials, but the host is responsible for downloading and distributing these.

To download session materials, click "Access Session Material" in the Volunteer Portal, find your desired session using the search tool, and then click "Download Session Materials (CPAs Only)". At this point, you may need to sign in before continuing.

Making changes to the content

If you feel any presentation content or speaking notes should be altered to better match the needs of your audience or to better align with your presentation style, feel free to make those changes. Alterations should be aligned with CPA professional standards and communicated to CPABC and the host before the presentation.

7. Tips for presenting financial literacy sessions

Presenting your first financial literacy session can be intimidating. If you have any concerns or questions, you can email us at finlit@bccpa.ca and we'll do our best to help. But first, read these helpful tips:

- For your first session, choose a topic that you are passionate about. This will help you feel more comfortable with the subject matter and will help the audience better connect with you.
- Have your presentation materials organized and prepared in advance. This will help you to avoid scrambling to get organized on the day of your session.
- Keep in touch with your session's host contact and be sure to update them on any notable changes or updates regarding your presentation.
- Practice your presentation beforehand if public speaking makes you nervous.
- Personalize the content where you can and give examples from your own life or career. This can help make your presentation more memorable to the audience.
- Remember that practice makes perfect. The more sessions you present, the easier it will be and the more skilled a presenter you'll become.
- Be open to feedback and use it to improve your skills.
- Never hesitate to reach out to CPABC for guidance and support.

Making your presentations interactive and engaging

We understand finances can be a dry topic for some. Here are some steps you can take to engage with your audience more effectively and keep things interesting:

- Encourage participation throughout the presentation. Consider asking questions every 5-10 minutes to hold the audience's attention. Asking reflection-style questions is a great way to have participants think about the content (ex. What is your biggest financial goal? What does being "good with money" mean to you?)
- Emphasize that participation supports learning and that there are no bad questions when it comes to finances.
- Do some additional research on the community/organization you are presenting for and incorporate this knowledge into your presentation (Ex. a case study involving a local business or group). This will make your session more personable and the audience is likely to appreciate the extra effort.
- Have a "body break" mid-way through the session and encourage participants to stretch and move around.
- For virtual sessions, use tools like polls, reactions, breakout rooms, and the chat to keep your audience engaged.

Presenting to challenging audiences

Some audiences can be more challenging – to help you prepare, here are some tips:

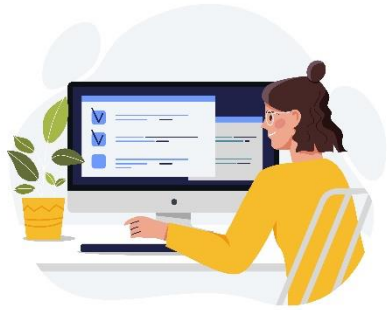
Youth audiences

- It can be difficult to make youth feel engaged, so it's a good idea to make your presentation as interactive as possible – don't be afraid to try new things.
- Encouraging questions, even ones that are slightly off topic, can be a great way to get youth to open up and share their own ideas.
- Pause after each topic and ask if there are any questions.
- Try putting participants into small groups to discuss a topic, then have them share their ideas.
- Elementary school audiences will have more difficulty sitting still and paying attention, so try to avoid long stretches without some kind of activity or interactive element. Interactive activities are often included in the session downloadable materials.
- Consider asking for one or two volunteers to be your “helpers” throughout the session. This is a great way to get elementary students more engaged.
- At the end of the session, ask the audience to share one thing they remember from the session or one thing they'll take away from it.

Low to moderate-income audiences

- At the beginning of your presentation, establish that money is a sensitive topic for many and that it is not your intent to offend or say something inappropriate, arrogant, or emotionally impactful. This can help to avoid conflict or negative feelings towards your presentation.
- Encourage participation and share your own experiences, including times where you were facing financial hardship and how you overcame it.
- Communicate that financial problems do not reflect someone's character, and that they should avoid comparing themselves to others who they view as more wealthy or successful.
- Avoid using examples that may be out of reach for low to moderate-income audiences, such as mentioning expensive brand names or big purchases such as a new car or an expensive vacation.
- Try and reframe conversations or stories about losing money to instead emphasize ways in which money can be saved in that situation.
- Encourage participants to celebrate small financial victories and stress the importance of these small wins in the long run as they continue to add up.
- Encourage participants to focus on what makes them happy and to look to the future, because reaching a better place financially is not something that happens overnight.

8. Self-reporting sessions



If you organize a financial literacy session on your own outside of the CPABC volunteer portal, please **self-report** that session. By self-reporting, you are informing CPABC Financial Literacy that the session is taking place. Self-reporting is important in CPABC's goal to capture ALL data regarding financial literacy sessions.

Self-reporting is a quick and easy process. **We ask that you self-report each session you've organized on your own individually.** To self-report, simply click "Self-Report a Session" in the Volunteer Portal and fill out the required fields. Once you've entered the correct information for your session, click "Submit Request" at the bottom of your screen. You will receive a confirmation email and your self-report will be processed within two business days.

After you successfully self-report a session, it will appear under "Past Sessions" in the "My Presented Sessions" tab. Here you can also view your upcoming and cancelled sessions.

Providing us feedback

If at any time you have feedback regarding CPABC's Financial Literacy program, you can send an email to finlit@bccpa.ca. The Financial Literacy team is always looking to hear from volunteers about their experiences to make improvements to the program.

9. Frequently asked questions

Is there a time commitment or a minimum number of sessions I need to meet?

There are no specific time commitments or minimum number of sessions you are required to present.

What should I do if I need to reschedule or cancel a session I've signed up to present?

Please email finlit@bccpa.ca and let us know. We will inform the host and work to find a replacement volunteer or determine an alternate date for the session.

A host organization wants to cancel/reschedule my session, what should I do?

If the host wants to cancel, no action is required on your part. If the host wants to reschedule, discuss with them an alternative date if possible. We will also assist to make alternative arrangements if needed.

What should I do if I'm not getting matched with many sessions?

Consider expanding your volunteer preferences by selecting additional audience types or locations under "Manage Volunteer Profile" in the volunteer portal. If you prefer to only deliver in-person sessions, consider presenting online sessions as well, and vice-versa.

Can I set up my own Financial Literacy sessions with someone I know?

Absolutely! If you know someone who would like you to present a financial literacy session, please set this up and make sure to **self-report** each session afterward.

Can I present Financial Literacy sessions alongside another volunteer?

Yes, more than one CPA volunteer can present a single session. If you have someone you'd like to co-present with please let us know so we can ensure all volunteers are recognized.

I'm nervous about presenting for the first time, what should I do?

If you're feeling hesitant, you can request to sit in on a session conducted by an experienced volunteer, or feel free to get in touch with us and we can answer your questions and walk you through the process.

I'd like to withdraw from the Financial Literacy Program, what should I do?

If you wish to withdraw or take a temporary leave from volunteering, you can do so by emailing finlit@bccpa.ca. If you withdraw voluntarily, you can come back and continue volunteering at any time.